

derivative selected from the group consisting of:

an ester of hyaluronic acid wherein part or all of the carboxylic groups of said hyaluronic acid are esterified with alcohols of the aliphatic, aromatic, arylaliphatic, cycloaliphatic series; an autocrosslinked ester of hyaluronic acid wherein part or all of the carboxylic moieties of said hyaluronic acid are esterified with the alcoholic groups of the same or a different hyaluronic acid chain; ~~and~~

a hemiester ~~of~~ succinic acid or a heavy metal salt of the hemiester of succinic acid with hyaluronic acid or with a hyaluronic acid ester having part or all of the carboxy groups of hyaluronic acid esterified with an alcohol of aliphatic, aromatic, arylaliphatic, cycloaliphatic series.

161. (new) A biological material comprising:

autologous or homologous cells belonging to at least one cell type selected from the group consisting of endothelial cells, glandular cells, skin adnexa and germinative cells of hair bulbs, a biocompatible three-dimensional matrix, on which said cells are seeded and grown, said matrix comprising an ester of hyaluronic acid wherein part or all of the carboxylic groups of said hyaluronic acid are esterified with alcohols of the aliphatic, aromatic, arylaliphatic, cycloaliphatic series.

Kindly cancel claims 87-121.

#### REMARKS

Applicant wishes to bring to the Examiner's attention U.S. Patent Nos. 4,851,521 and 5,202,431, which are U.S. patents corresponding to EP 0216453, which disclose the hyaluronic acid derivatives of Class A. EP 0216453 was cited on the Information Disclosure Statement filed June 5, 2000.

On pages 2-5 and 16-17 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 87, 90, 91, 93, 94, 99, 103-105, 107-109, 112,